

HEMOLYTIC-UREMIC SYNDROME

followed by acute renal failure and hemolytic anemia. The prognosis is excellent with 95 percent of the patients surviving the acute illness and about 90 percent recovering normal renal function. For this reason, intensive medical management of the acute renal failure is mandatory.

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Adolescent Menstrual Disorders

I want to know whether there is an important abnormality here or not. If there is not, I am confident that I can pinpoint the emotional precipitating cause for hypothalamic pituitary suppression. I do nothing—and, when I say nothing, I do not mean absolutely nothing. I sit down and talk to this patient for some time, explaining to her that, in my view, not menstruating is not, per se, doing her any harm. I believe that most patients who are amenorrheic for this reason are not at risk simply because they are not menstruating. I seldom find it necessary to produce any kind of withdrawal bleeding to raise their morale. It is my experience that patients accept an explanation of this kind. They come because they want to know if something is the matter with them; and I generally do nothing except give them this kind of explanation. Now, I do not lose track of them completely; I see them at intervals. I might even begin by bringing them back in six months, but I will probably see them yearly after that because, otherwise, I think they lose faith in what you have told them. They say, "Well, I wonder if he really understood what he was talking about," and they go off to another department and do the whole thing again—which is, generally speaking, unnecessary.

—C. J. DEWHURST, MD, London

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